

THE QUAKER POET.

Whittier in Anti-Slavery Days—Stoned and Pursued in New Hampshire—Travelling in Disguise.

Annie Fields in Harpers for February.

It was perhaps in this same year, 1866, that we made an autumn visit to Whittier, which is still a well-remembered pleasure. The weather was warm and the fruit was ripening in the little Amesbury garden. We loitered about for a while, I remember, in the afternoon, among the fallen pear leaves and in the sweet air, but he soon led the way into his garden-room, and fell into talk. He was an adept in the art of conversation, having trained himself in the difficult school of a New England farm-house, fit ground for such athletes, being typically bare of suggestion and of relief from outside sources. The unbroken afternoons and the long evenings, when the only hope of entertainment is in such fire as one brain can strike from another, produce a situation as difficult to the unskilled as that of an untutored swimmer when first cast into the sea. Persons long habituated to these contests could face the position calmly, and see the early "tea things" disappear and the contestants draw their chairs around the fire with a kind of zeal; but to one new to such experience there was room for heart-sinkings when preparations were made, by putting fresh sticks on the fire, for sitting from gloaming to vesper, and sometimes on again unwearied till midnight.

Mrs. Stowe and Whittier were the invincible Lancelots of these tournaments, and any one who has had the privilege of sitting by the New England hearthstone with either of them, will be ready to confess that no playhouse, or game, or any of the distractions the city may afford, can compare with the satisfaction of such an experience. Upon the visit in question, Whittier talked of the days of his anti-slavery life in 1835 or '36, when the English agitator, George Thompson, first came to this country. The latter was suffering from the attack of many a mob, and was fatigued by frequent speaking and as frequent abuse. Whittier invited him to his home in the neighborhood of Haverhill, where he could find quiet rest during the warm weather. Thompson accepted the invitation, and remained with him a fortnight. They used to take hay together, and go about the farm unmolested. At length, however, a pressing invitation came for Thompson to go to Concord, New Hampshire, to speak in the cause of freedom, and afterward to continue on to the village of Plymouth and visit a friend in that place. Whittier was included in the invitation, and it was settled that they should accept the call.

They travelled peaceably enough, in their own chaise, as far as Concord, where the speech was delivered without interruption; but when they attempted to leave the hall after the address was ended, they found it almost impossible. A crowd followed them with the apparent intention of stoning and killing them. "I understood how St. Paul felt when he was stoned," said Whittier. The missiles fell around them and upon them like hail, not touching their heads, providentially, although he could remember the sound the stones made when they missed their aim and struck the wooden fence behind them. They were made very lame by the blows, but they managed to reach their friend's house, where they sprang up the steps three at a time, before the crowd knew where they were they were going. Their host was certainly a brave man, for he met them as the door, and throwing open, exclaimed, "Whoever comes in here must come over my dead body." The door was then barricaded, and the crowd rushed round to the back of the house, thinking that their victims intended to go out that way; but they waited until it was dark, when Whittier exchanged his friend's hat for that of his host, and anything else peculiar about his dress being well disguised, the two managed to pass out unperceived by the crowd, and go on their way to Plymouth.

They stopped one night on their journey at a small inn, where the landlord asked if they had heard anything of the riot in Concord. Two men had been there, he said, one an Englishman by the name of Thompson, who had been making abominable and seditious speeches, stirring up people about "the niggers"; the other was a young Quaker by the name of Whittier, who was always making speeches. He heard him lecture once himself, he said (a base lie, Whittier told us, because he had never lectured in his life), and it was well that active measures had been taken against them. "We heard him all through," said Whittier, "and then, just as I had my foot on the step of the chaise, ready to drive away from the door, I remarked to him, 'Wouldn't you like to see that Thompson of whom you have been speaking?' I took good care not to use plain language, that is, the Quaker form. 'I rather think I should,' said the man. 'Well, this is Mr. Thompson,' I said, as I jumped into the chaise. 'And this is the Quaker, Whittier,' said Thompson, driving away as fast as he could. I looked back, and saw him standing, mouth wide open, gazing after us in the greatest astonishment."

The two kept on to Plymouth, where they were nearly mobbed a second time. Years after, Whittier said, when he was passing through Portland once, a man, seeing him go by, stepped out of his shop and asked if his name was Whittier, and if he were not the man who was stoned, years before, by a mob at Concord. The answer being in the affirmative, he said he believed a devil possessed him that night; for he had no reason to wish evil either to Whittier or Thompson, yet he was filled with a desire to kill them, and he thought he should have done so if they had not escaped. He added that the mob was like a crowd of demons, and he knew one man who had mixed a black dye to dip them in, which would be almost impossible to get off. He could not explain to himself or to another the state of mind he was in.

THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY.

Took in the Races and Backed His Judgment on the Flyers.

Before the Revolution Annapolis was the most fashionable city in America and all the belles and beaux of Virginia and Maryland flocked there for its pleasures. The fascinating young ladies of Annapolis were the most elegant women of their day. General Washington at this time was extremely attentive to Miss Elizabeth Carroll, daughter of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, and often visited her in his post-chaise and four-in-hand, accompanied by Miss Curtis and his retinue of servants. He frequented the races in the ancient city and while there spent his money "like a gentleman." He was a visitor and perhaps member of the famous Annapolis club, of which there were several. He bet on the horses and bet on cards. He went to the theatre and balls at the "Assembly Room," and took his friends with him, and, indeed, while in the capital city he seemed to enjoy himself to the full. In his journal we find the following account of expenses at the Annapolis races in 1782: "Travelling expenses, 22,

10; 112; servants in trip, 17s; sundry tickets to the play there, 21s; sundry tickets to the ball there, 12s; two boxes of claret, 23s; in Maryland currency, £20, 14s; horse, £80; in Maryland currency, £40; charity, 23 3s; cash lost on the races, £1, 6s; cash paid for a hat, for Miss Curtis, 24, 4s; cash to Miss Curtis at Annapolis, £2, 14s.

This was an extraordinarily large amount of money for Washington to spend, even after he had deducted "£13, won at cards." The next year the races took place two weeks earlier and Washington was promptly on hand with his retinue of servants and with money to spend, though with not so large an amount as he scattered about the year before. His account this year stood: "For travelling expenses, £4, 16s, 10d; sundry play tickets, £5, 10s; ticket to the ball, 6s; cards and racing, £3, 16s; servants, £1, 15s, 3d."

He was probably restrained by the presence of young Mr. Curtis, who made his first appearance at the races and whose expenses amounted to \$3, not itemized.

FLORA WALSH HOYT.

A Gifted, Pure and Beautiful Woman lost to the Stage.

Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Flora Walsh, the best known sourette on the American stage, died yesterday at the Tremont House, Boston, aged twenty-three years. Six years ago she married Charles H. Hoyt, the author of "The Texas Steer," "A Temperance Town," "A Trip to Chinatown," and a number of other satirical farce comedies. Mrs. Hoyt has suffered for a long time from a throat affection. Some months ago she was forced to relinquish singing, although she had a very sweet voice. She suffered so much that at the close of the engagement of "The Texas Steer," in which she played the role of *Hosy Brandon*, at the Duquesne theatre Christmas week, she returned to Boston with her husband for treatment. At that time she was noticeably hoarse.

Mrs. Hoyt's complaint failed to yield to treatment, and the disease progressed rapidly. Two operations were performed upon her throat, but without affording any relief. The disease finally culminated in pneumonia, which was the immediate cause of her death yesterday.

Mrs. Hoyt was born in San Francisco. At a very early age she successfully filled the role of *Josephine* in a juvenile "Pinafore" company. She created the sourette part in nearly every one of her husband's plays, and being a woman of great ability, assisted him materially in their construction. She was a woman of much beauty; of peculiarly winning manners, and possessed the charm of purity to its fullest extent. Mr. Hoyt, in addition to being a playwright and theatrical manager, was recently elected to the New Hampshire legislature, and is a prominent candidate for the speakership.

There was nothing in Mrs. Hoyt's condition to excite alarm until Thursday. An alarm of fire in the hotel caused a high state of excitement among the guests, during which Mrs. Hoyt sprang out of bed and was nearly prostrated with fear. The next day pneumonia developed.

Sluggish Jackson to Play "Uncle Tom." San Francisco Special.

Peter Jackson has signed a contract with Manager Stockwell, of San Francisco, to appear as *Uncle Tom* on February 27. Parson Davies will act as auctioneer, and the piece is expected to run here for three weeks and then be put on the road. Jackson signed the contract with the stipulation that he could be free at any time by giving four months' notice, in order that he could be ready to meet Corbett whenever the champion will give him a chance. When the proposition to play *Uncle Tom* was first broached to Jackson he would have nothing to do with it, but when Davies promised to help him he thought better of it. The parson told him the hardest thing in the part is to die in good stage fashion. "Yes," said Peter, "and directly I close my eyes some fresh hoodlum in the gallery will raise the laugh by beginning to count me out."

Stockwell thinks Peter will make a hit in the part, as he has a better stage presence and speaks more distinctly than Corbett. The other parts will all be taken by good actors. Jackson is very eager to meet Corbett in the ring and settle the question of superiority. That 61-round draw ranks in his mind. Parson Davies, on behalf of Jackson, will deposit \$2,500 to bind a match with the present champion for \$10,000 a side and the largest purse offered. The terms proposed will be so fair there can be no doubt the colored champion means business.

A "Crank."

Notes and Queries.

If this is an "odd American word," it has been in common use in Derbyshire as long as I can remember, and is still often heard. It is used to describe a man who has fads, fancies and notions outside the common run of those of his neighbors. A man with a bee in his bonnet is cranky, and so are those who ride hobbies of any kind.

It is good old English, and, having died away and gone out of here, has been kept alive and is now revived in America. Burton used it nearly 300 years ago in his "Anatomy," and Wendell Holmes, after tacitly accepting it as of American coinage, discovered and pointed out that Burton had used it according to its accepted meaning in America.

Newspapers Endorse.

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Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

A BATTLE IN ITALY.

Peasants and Gendarmes Come Together With Fatal Results.

Rome, Jan. 22.—A terrible battle between 600 peasants and a body of gendarmes occurred at Termini, a seaport town in Sicily, yesterday. Eight of the peasants were killed and twenty more were seriously wounded. A large number of women were among the rebellious peasants, but it is not known that any of them are numbered among the dead or wounded.

The fight was caused by the refusal of the peasants to vacate a tract of land, the ownership of which is claimed by the Commune. Recently the peasants began to squat on the tract and in a short time 600 or more had established there. The attention of the authorities was called to the fact. Formal notice was sent the squatters ordering them to vacate. They paid no attention to the order and when spoken to about it replied that the soil was their own and they would not leave. Upon learning that the peasants had refused to obey the notice, the authorities sent a body of gendarmes with orders to eject the squatters by force if necessary.

The peasants resisted. The gendarmes fired upon them. A number of the peasants were taken prisoners and the others fled to the interior, swearing vengeance upon the gendarmes and the authorities.

"Donchoo Know?" is Allowable.

New York Times.

It is positively asserted, on authority, that the frightful war against what is technically called "combination of words" is over. The difficulties have been adjusted, and we may say with impunity "Canshoocone" and "Donchoo know?" instead of agonizing to bring out the final "it" and the initiatory "a" sound of the last word.

"For, don't you see," argue these astute philologists, "the whole English language would go to pieces if we should attempt to separate the linguists in this manner. Thus, 'solfer' would become 'soldoever' and 'christshun' 'christeeeyn,' and so on. And if this is permitted in the middle of words as in 'solfer,' the same blending of sounds and loss of the distinctive character of the lingual may be permitted wherever the letter may occur."

This is truly refreshing, and it is hoped that the news will be carried to the colleges and seminaries at once.

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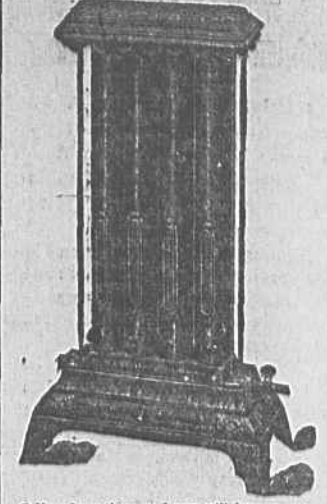
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